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(54) TAMPON

(71) We, SALVE S.A., a Swiss Corporate Body of 73 route de la Viguattaz-Sud, CH 1700 Fribourg, Switzerland, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

The present invention relates to a tampon for insertion into body cavities to absorb liquid, comprising a substantially cylindrical body of cotton or similar highly absorbent material and provided at one end with a string in order to facilitate removal of the tampon from the body cavity.

The object of the invention is to provide a tampon, especially a hygienic catamenial tampon, of the type which is easy to remove from the body cavity, that prevents liquid from leaking out during use through the outer portion of the tampon and also spreads out in use into an outwardly flared shape.

In accordance with the present invention there is provided a tampon for insertion into body cavities to absorb liquid, comprising a substantially cylindrical body of cotton or similar highly absorbent material, a string at one end of the body for removing the tampon from the body cavity, and a liquid-proof barrier in the form of a plastics casing on a portion of the body at said one end for sealing the end of the tampon against leakage, and for retaining the cylindrical shape of that end, whereby the remaining portion of the tampon, upon liquid absorption, expands into an outwardly flared shape.

An embodiment of the invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawing in which:—

Figures 1, 2 and 3 show perspective views of a tampon according to the invention.

In the embodiment shown in the drawings the tampon consists in known manner of a pressed cotton or similar highly absorbent material. Thus the tampon 1 is made of a plurality of cotton layers arranged one above the other and joined together by a centre seam 5 which preferably also forms a string 2 extending out of one end 4 of the tampon.

The various cotton layers are then compressed to form a compact cylindrical shape. Alternatively the tampon 1 may be made from a number of substantially rectangular or circular layers of cotton placed one above the other and joined, for example by means of a central attachment. The latter design of the tampon produces a shape which "opens out" more easily to an outwardly flared shape during use.

Due to its cylindrical shape the tampon 1 is easily inserted into a body cavity, for example the vagina, in which the tampon absorbs liquid. At its outer end 4, therefore the tampon 1 is provided with a string 2 in order to facilitate its removal from the body cavity. This string can be produced in several different ways, such as twisting together threads which have been spun or combined with the cotton in some other way. The string 2 may also be produced by coating a layer of cotton with a plastics layer which is twisted together to form a string or twisted around a string.

At its outer end 4 provided with the string 2, the tampon 1 is provided with a liquid-proof barrier 3. This barrier prevents moisture or liquid from penetrating out when the tampon 1 absorbs liquid and opens out in the manner indicated in Figure 3. The barrier is less flexible at its portion adjacent to the outer end 4 of the tampon and the barrier functions as a bowl when the tampon opens out. Due to the barrier 3, the outer end 4 of the tampon 1 is held together, which also facilitates removal of the tampon when it is no longer required or when it is to be replaced.

As shown the barrier 3 consists of a plastics casing surrounding the outer end portion of the tampon. The casing may consist of a plastics foil wound around the end of the tampon and in this case it is quite simple to provide the foil with an extension which can be twisted together to produce the thread 2 or twisted around the thread 2.

The invention is not limited to the embodiments shown and described by way of example. Many modifications are feasible

within the scope of the following claims. As is clear from the above the barrier can be obtained in many different ways and the examples given above should only serve to illustrate the invention and not to limit it. Furthermore, the tampon may consist of synthetic fibres instead of natural cotton. It should also be obvious from the above that the string 2 can be produced in a great number of different ways within the scope of the invention.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. Tampon for insertion into body cavities to absorb liquid, comprising a substantially cylindrical body of cotton or similar highly absorbent material, a string at one end of the body for removing the tampon from the body cavity, and a liquid-proof barrier in the form of a plastics casing on a

portion of the body at said one end for sealing that end of the tampon against leakage, and for retaining the cylindrical shape of that end, whereby the remaining portion of the tampon, upon liquid absorption, expands into an outwardly flared shape.

2. Tampon according to claim 1 wherein the plastics casing consists of a plastics foil wound around the end portion of the tampon.

3. A tampon substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

1 SHEET

*This drawing is a reproduction of
the Original on a reduced scale*

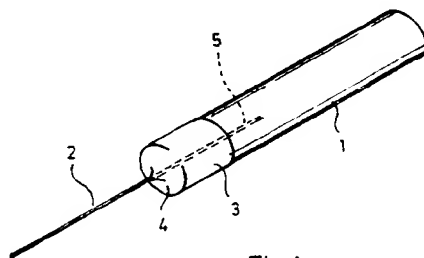


Fig. 1

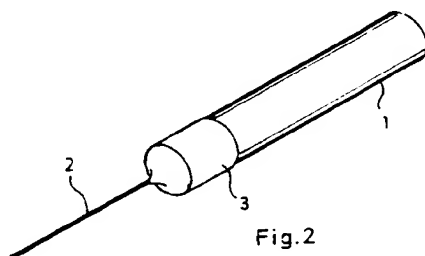


Fig. 2

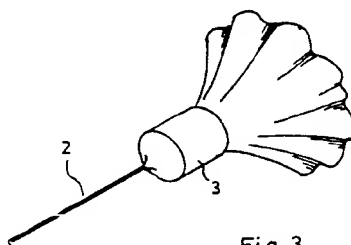


Fig. 3